International Genomics Consortium

http://www.intgen.org/

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Overview

The International Genomics Consortium, a non-profit medical research organization, was established to expand upon the discoveries of the Human Genome Project and other systematic sequencing efforts by combining world-class genomic research, bioinformatics, and diagnostic technologies in the global fight against cancer and other complex genetic diseases.

The Consortium Level

At IGC, we believe the consortium model for specimen collection, using standardized protocols linked to a centralized molecular profiling laboratory, is the fastest route to reaping the medical rewards enabled by the Human Genome Project.

The participation of leadership from within the pharmaceutical industry, biotech arena, patient advocacy groups, research technology companies, and medical centers of excellence from around the world will assist and step up the transit from patient bedside to research bench and back to the patient - true translational research.

Fundamental Strategies

IGC aims to deliver on its mission through these fundamental strategies:

- Distribute clinical specimens to research entities for correlative studies.
- Establish and augment national and international standards for consent, tissue collection, clinical annotation, molecular analysis and representation of data.
- Accelerate the discovery of targets for therapy, prognosis and diagnosis.
- Enable these databases to evolve and to progressively compound their value.
- Transition genomic discoveries from bench to bedside to improve patient care.

Success in these strategies will accelerate new drug discoveries and the advancement of treatment regimens, vastly improving the delivery and quality of care provided to patients.

expO Functional Areas

EXPRESSION PROJECT FOR ONCOLOGY (exp*O*)

The mission of expO is to build on the technologies and outcomes of the Human Genome Project to accelerate improved clinical management of cancer patients.

In cancer research, IGC's Expression Project for Oncology (exp*O*) seeks to integrate longitudinal clinical annotation with gene expression data for a unique and powerful portrait of human malignancies, providing critical perspective on diagnostic markers, prognostic indicators, and therapeutic targets.

Follow-on studies of residual clinical materials will generate an evolving database of cancer that accommodates complimentary and multidisciplinary assessments of the disease.

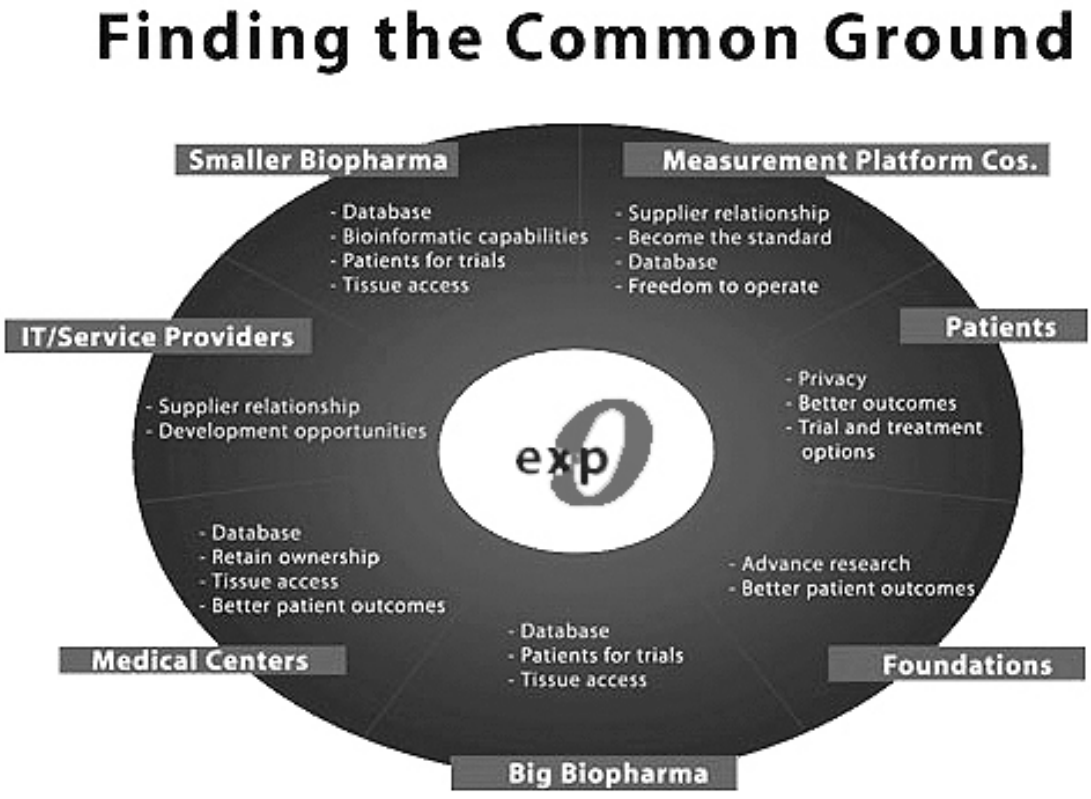
The IGC databases will be unrestricted, publicly available portals into the new era of molecularly prescribed medicine.

Objectives

- In the next three years, **create a database of the gene expression profiles of 2,500 human tumor specimens and 500 normal tissues collected under consented, standardized conditions; clinically annotated and de-identified for public access**. By releasing research data into the public domain without restrictions on intellectual property, IGC expects to streamline the development of optimized treatments for cancer patients.
- **Steward the use and redistribution of exp*O* resources** (tumor tissue, normal tissue, tissue adjacent to tumor, peripheral blood lymphocyte DNA and serum) for comprehensive follow-on studies necessary to obtain the fullest utility from exp*O*. Clinical specimens not directly consumed by exp*O* analysis will be made available to research entities for experimentation that will accelerate improved management of cancer patients.

Distinctiveness

exp*O* serves a broad spectrum of needs:



exp*O* will deliver to the public a comprehensive expression database of information on human cancers including clinical annotation. The content of the database will be characterized not only by its size and attention to standardization, but by the breadth of tumor types. The ability to provide diversity of tumor type has greatly been facilitated by the consortium partnerships between IGC and host medical centers.